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SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF
EFFORT IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

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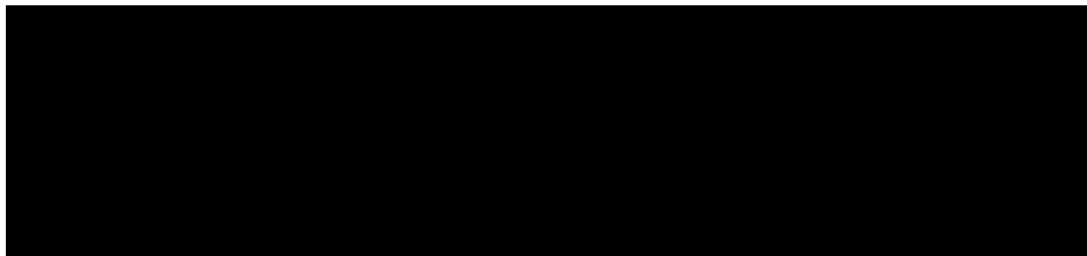
Directorate of Intelligence
18 June 1992

Assessment of the Humanitarian Relief Effort in Bosnia-Hercesovna

Summary

We have only limited information on the locations of populations in need in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Concerns about poor security are slowing the pace of humanitarian relief efforts, which were resumed this week after being halted in mid-May. Nevertheless, ICRC and UNHCR appear to be positioning themselves for an efficient relief effort once officials in these - organizations judge that security is acceptable.

[REDACTED]



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Sketchy Details on the Locations of People in Need

We have little detailed information on specific locations and conditions of populations in need within Sarajevo and the rest of Bosnia-Herzegovina. UN sources continue to indicate that about 300,000 persons are in need in Sarajevo. [REDACTED] we believe that about 500,000 refugees are elsewhere in the republic.

- 120,000 are in the Bosnian Krajina--west of Sarajevo-- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] They estimate that about 15,000 of these refugees are in Banja Luka, the regional center, and 10,000 are in Sipovo, a town of about 15,000 people southwest of Banja Luka, where local residents are caring for them.
- Some 70,000 refugees are in the vicinity of Tuzla, with 30,000 to 40,000 in the town itself.
- The remainder are spread throughout the republic. A concentration of refugees exists in the vicinity of Gorazde and Foca, southeast of Sarajevo, although we have no reporting on its size. [REDACTED]

Status of Relief Efforts

In recent weeks, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) have been making preparations to resume humanitarian assistance.¹ During the first week of June, ICRC negotiated a detailed agreement with officials from the three ethnic communities in Bosnia-Herzegovina; this detailed some 24 routes to 10 destinations within the republic that, if kept secure, could be used by ICRC and UNHCR (see appendix). Meanwhile, the two organizations positioned stocks of food, medical supplies, and clothing in Zagreb, Belgrade, Kotor, and Split.² UNHCR, however, reported difficulty getting supplies to Belgrade due to the sanctions. The two organizations have also been working

¹ ICRC suspended its humanitarian relief efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina on 18 May, following the killing of one of its delegates, and UNHCR suspended its assistance on 24 May, after judging that negotiated security guarantees were not holding up. [REDACTED]

² According to US Embassy reports, ICRC has more than 100,000 family parcels in Zagreb alone. The parcels contain oil, cheese, beans, corned beef, sugar, detergent, and soap). [REDACTED]

with United Nations Protective Forces (UNPROFOR) and various nations to assist in organizing truck convoys and airlifts. [REDACTED]

Following affirmation of a new cease-fire agreement effective as of 0600 on 15 June, UNHCR and ICRC began limited operations aimed at getting some food and medical supplies--via road convoys--to Sarajevo, while the UNPROFOR attempted to arrange for the opening of Sarajevo airport. We are aware of three convoys that reached Sarajevo this week:

- The first, organized by French humanitarian groups, arrived from Belgrade early in the week after being detained in eastern Croatia by Serb forces. It contained food, medical supplies, and clothing.
- The second, organized by the UN, arrived on 15 June from Split. This eight-vehicle convoy contained 40 tons of supplies, including food, enough baby food to feed 1,000 infants for one month, and enough medical supplies to assist some 20,000 people for three months.
- The third, which arrived on 18 June, also was organized by French groups. This 31-vehicle convoy was held up for 36 hours outside of Sarajevo because of fighting, according to press reports. It contained 180 tons of food and medical supplies.

No organization has attempted an airlift into Sarajevo. [REDACTED]

Neither ICRC nor UNHCR have established logistical centers in Sarajevo. Two UNHCR staff personnel were to arrive in Sarajevo on 15 June to coordinate relief efforts there, [REDACTED] but we cannot verify their arrival. [REDACTED] reports that fighting has severely damaged ICRC offices in Sarajevo. [REDACTED]

ICRC and the local chapter of the Red Cross are also attempting to reach other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina, [REDACTED]. The local Red Cross delivered about 4,000 family parcels to Banja Luka earlier this week. An ICRC convoy carrying 45 tons of relief goods reached Zenica and Kiseljak--west of Sarajevo--from Zagreb on 16 June. ICRC personnel in Zagreb are also considering resumption of relief to Banja Luka, Bihac, and Trebinje, if the security situation permits. Elsewhere, we have limited press reports indicating that some refugees are living in small towns, where locals are providing food and shelter. [REDACTED]

The critical factor affecting the pace and direction of the relief efforts currently appears to be concerns about security. An ICRC official noted that some 56 cease-fires have been violated, and indicated that relief efforts into Sarajevo will not begin until four consecutive days occur without a shot being

fired. [REDACTED]

The ICRC is also concerned that the initial phase of an airlift into Sarajevo could create a "magnet effect" that would bring populations in need into the safety zone that UNPROFOR plans to hold. The potential of creating new population movements in the vicinity of Sarajevo also concerns UNHCR. Both organizations, therefore, favor using land routes that would enable them to deliver aid to locations as close as possible to where the needs appear to be the greatest. Both organizations are, nevertheless, preparing to conduct airlifts into Sarajevo. [REDACTED]

Assessing the Future of the Relief Effort

ICRC and UNHCR appear to be positioning themselves for an efficient effort, once officials in these organizations judge that security is acceptable. At the same time, we are unlikely to obtain a clear picture of the needs of the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina until relief workers are able to travel safely in the war-torn republic and assess the current plight. In the meantime, serious problems with water, sanitation, and shortages of food apparently exist in Sarajevo, although some of the 500,000 displaced people elsewhere in the republic may be receiving minimal levels of assistance from local populations. [REDACTED]